
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Executive Order 7 (2002)

The Secure Virginia Initiative

Among the most important responsibilities and profound duties of government at all levels is to provide for the safety and security of its citizens. With this most serious obligation in mind and by virtue of the authority vested in me by Article 5, Sections 1 and 7 of the *Constitution of Virginia* and by Section 44-146.17 of the Code of Virginia, I hereby set forth the Secure Virginia Initiative. The purpose of this Initiative shall be to improve the safety and security of the citizens of the Commonwealth. The Initiative shall include, but not be limited to, improving the Commonwealth's preparedness and response and recovery capability for natural disasters and emergencies of all kinds, including terrorist attacks.

Secure Virginia Panel

To launch this Initiative, I hereby establish the Secure Virginia Panel (herein called the "Panel") to review, evaluate and make recommendations relating to the emergency preparedness of government at all levels in the Commonwealth. Additionally, the Panel shall facilitate cabinet-level coordination among the various agencies of state government related to emergency preparedness and will facilitate private sector preparedness and communication.

The Panel shall consist of 20 members. The chairman of the Panel shall be the Assistant to the Governor for Commonwealth Preparedness. Other members of the Panel shall include the Lieutenant Governor; the Attorney General; two members of the House of Delegates; two members of the Senate of Virginia; and the Secretaries of Health and Human Resources, Public Safety, Technology, and Transportation. The Governor shall appoint two local first responders and three local government representatives to the panel. The Governor shall also appoint four additional members from the private sector. Ex officio members may be appointed to the Panel by the Governor at his discretion.

Members of the Panel shall serve without compensation but may receive reimbursement for expenses incurred in the discharge of their official duties upon approval by the Governor's Chief of Staff or his designee.

The Panel shall convene, within sixty days of the signing of this order, a statewide forum of local and state emergency management officials, fire, emergency medical, and law enforcement officials and private and public sector financial services, health care, technology, transportation, and utility leaders to evaluate and improve emergency preparedness and response.

The Panel shall review all current disaster, emergency management, and terrorism management plans, including those developed as required by Governor George Allen's Executive Order 73 (97) and Governor James Gilmore's Executive Order 41 (99), and make such recommendations for changes as the Panel deems necessary. Within 365 days of the signing of this order, the Panel shall ensure that there is in place an up-to-date, comprehensive statewide emergency preparedness, response, and recovery plan.

The Panel shall prepare quarterly reports for the Governor to keep him apprised of the state's emergency preparedness, response, and recovery efforts.

Staff support for the Panel will be provided by the Office of the Governor, the Office of the Secretary of Public Safety, the Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, the Department of State Police, the Department of Emergency Management, the Department of Planning and Budget, and such other executive offices and agencies as may be designated by the Governor. An estimated 500 hours of staff time will be required to support the work of the Panel.

Funding necessary to support the Panel's work will be provided from sources, including both private and appropriated funds, contributed or appropriated for purposes related to the work of the Panel, as authorized by Section 2.2-135(B) of the Code of Virginia. Direct expenditures for the Panel's work are estimated to be \$30,000. All or part of the costs incurred by the Panel may be paid, upon my approval, out of the sum sufficient appropriation for Disaster Planning and Operations contained in Item 45 of Chapter 1073, 2000 Virginia Acts of Assembly, or any other funds available for such purpose.

State Agency Plans

I hereby direct all executive branch agencies to prepare, within 120 days, emergency response plans or updates to existing plans that address continuity of their operations and services, and the security of their customers and employees, in the event of natural or man-made disasters or emergencies, including terrorist attacks. These agency plans shall be presented to the Office of the Governor and shall be made available to the Panel as part of its work in preparing a statewide emergency preparedness, response, and recovery plan.

Responsibility for Security Issues

I hereby designate the Assistant to the Governor for Commonwealth Preparedness as the single point of contact for the Executive Office of the President, Office of Homeland Security.

I hereby designate the Secretary of Public Safety as the single point of contact for federal law enforcement agencies regarding homeland security issues.

I hereby designate the Assistant to the Governor for Commonwealth Preparedness to work with appropriate cabinet secretaries to coordinate grants that may be provided to improve preparedness in Virginia communities.

This Executive Order rescinds Executive Order 85 (01), Establishing the Virginia Preparedness and Security Panel, issued by Governor James Gilmore.

This Executive Order shall be effective upon its signing, and shall remain in full force and effect until January 31, 2003 unless amended or rescinded by further executive order. Given under my hand and under the Seal of the Commonwealth of Virginia, this 31st day of January 2002.

Mark R. Warner, Governor

Attest:

Secretary of the Commonwealth